Financial assistance to Uttaranchal for potable water schemes

†2921. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance sought by Uttaranchal for the potable water schemes and installation of handpumps under drought relief programmes;

(b) whehter Government have sanctioned the above amount by accepting the State Government's request;

(c) if so, the total sanctioned amount and whether the said amount is as per the State's requirements; and

(d) if not, whether Government will consider on extending additional assistance to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (d) The Department of Drinking Water Supply provides funds to the State Governments under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to implement various sehemes to provide rural drinking water. Powers to plan, sanction and implement various drinking water schemes have also been delegated to the State Governments.

The Government of Uttaranchal had requested for provision of additional Central assistance of Rs. 50 crore during the financial year 2002-03 and of Rs. 70 crore during the financial year 2003-04 under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Allocation of funds to States under ARWSP is done as per the criteria stipulated in the guidelines governing rural water supply programme. As per the ARWSP criteria, Rs. 30.83 crore has been released in 2002-03 to the Government of Uttaranchal. Rs. 6.00 crore have also been released as additional funding under ARWSP to the State Government in March 2003. In so far as the request of the State Government to install 2500 India Mark II hand pumps at a cost of Rs. 47.04 crore in terms of the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15.8.2002, is concerned, a proposal is being finalised by the Government of India.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.